

Serial

Number

48

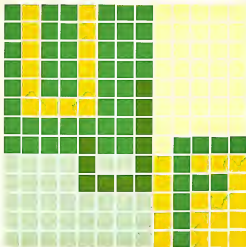
UniJapan Film Quarterly

vol. 13 no. 2

April 1970

UniJapan Film Quarterly

48



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Band of Assassins

Shinsengumi

新選組

Production Company:
Mifune Productions
Distribution Company:
Toho International
Company, Ltd.

Director:

Toshiro Sawashima

Screenplay:

Kenzō Mitamura

Photography:

Kazuo Yamada

Art Director:

Heisabō Ueda

Music:

Masaru Sato

With:

Toshiro Mifune
Keiji Kobayashi
Kinya Kitajō
Renzō Mikuni
Gonyōsen Nakamura
Katsuo Nakamura
Umenosuke Nakamura
Yūko Tachikawa
Juniko Suzuki
Yuriko Hoshi
Yuriko Nogami

Running Time: 122 minutes

Released January 1, 1970

With English subtitles

Seitama Color

Widescreen

In 1863, Isami Kondo (Toshiro Mifune) answers the call of the Tokugawa Shogunate for masterless samurai and goes to Kyoto, taking with him Hijikata (Keiji Kobayashi), Yamaneji (Umenosuke Nakamura), Okita (Kinya Kitajō) and five others, the best men he had taught at his fencing school. Loyal to the Shogunate, Kondo feels he must do his bit to keep peace and order in the land.

In Kyoto, Kondo finds that the city has become a political center and a hotbed of intrigue and rivalry for power. Men come and go with their own interests at heart, but Kondo gains the permission of the Kyoto Military Commissioner and sets up the Shinsen Group. He and Kamo Senzawa (Renzō Mikuni) become the leaders, while Hijikata and Yamaneji become assistants.

The rules of the Shinsen Group are very severe and any man who breaks them is ruthlessly slain. Hijikata, especially, is a zealot in carrying out orders to the letter.

Without Kondo's clear-cut course to follow, Kamo Senzawa breaks down under the strain and turns to drink and women. Gradually, the people of Kyoto come to fear and hate all the Shinsen Group for the violent actions of Senzawa, and Kondo is forced to purge him with his own hands.

The Shinsen Group's unsavory reputation is forgotten and its prestige is restored again when it raids the Ikedaya and squelches a plot to burn the beautiful city of Kyoto and abduct the Emperor.

While the motto of radicals is the expulsion of foreigners from Japanese soil, it does not conflict with Kondo's work but it changes into a "down with the Tokugawa regime" and gathers momentum. But Kondo's loyalty to the Shogunate labels him as a traitor to those who favor the return of the reins of government to the Emperor.

He realizes the strong current of the changing times and suffers the deep anguish of a man caught in a turbulent era. Executed at Ichibashi, Tokyo, in 1868, on the eve of the Meiji Restoration, Kondo dies as he had lived, a man of strong conviction.



Toshiro Mifune

Fort Ezo

Ezo-yakata no Kiseki
蝦夷地の奇蹟

Production Company:
Tokyo Eiga Co., Ltd.
Distribution Company:
Toho International
Company, Ltd.

Director:
Kenji Funaiwa
Original Story:
Rintarō Shibata
Screenplay:
Ryūō Kusuhara
Photography:
Hisashi Muroi
Art Director:
Masao Kayama
Music:
Kenji Hirasawa
With:
Yūzō Kayama
Rintarō Mikuni
Shōgo Shimada
Mitsuko Baishō
Tatsuya Nakadai

Running Time: 135 minutes
Released: February 8, 1970
With English subtitles

Eastman Color
Widescreen

In 1864—before the collapse of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Honjō, a Shogunate superintendent, dispatches Shimbei (Rintarō Mikuni), a vessel, on a special mission to Ezo (now Hokkaido), Japan's northernmost territory, where there is a fort held by unruly natives under the command of Jirozaemon (Shōgo Shimada).

Shimbei is joined by Saburōta (Yūzō Kayama), an ex-retainer, and six others, all of whom are paid by Echigoya, a shipping agent, to rescue the daughter of a Russian count captured by Jirozaemon when a Russian naval squadron visited the port of Ezo.

The group reach the fort and learn that Jirozaemon had asked and paid Echigoya to buy arms for the fort from the Russians, but Echigoya had failed to act in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Thus the group sent from the Shogunate join forces with the Ezo men to help their cause—all except Shimbei, who, in truth, is a Shogunate agent whose mission is to recover a large sum of gold hidden in the fort and bring it back to Edo to help bolster the finances of the collapsing Shogunate.

Faced with a Russian ultimatum, Saburōta takes the captured girl to one of the Russian ships to avoid a battle, but too late. Russian and Shogunate forces attack the fort and during the fierce conflict Shimbei kills Jirozaemon and secures the gold.

Saburōta, seeing Shimbei escaping on horseback, mounts another steed and pursues him. A duel ensues and Shimbei falls.

With the fort destroyed, Saburōta starts a new life with Jirozaemon's daughter.



Yūzō Kayama



Resurrection of the Beast

Yayû no Fûkûzai

育休の凶獣

Eastman Color

Widescreen

Production Company:
Toho Co., Ltd.
Distribution Company:
Toho International
Company, Ltd.

Director:
Michio Yamamoto
Screenplay:
Ei Ogawa
Photography:
Masaharu Utsuno
Art Director:
Yoshihumi Honda
Music:
Toshihiko Kamegaki
With:
Tatsuya Mihashi
Toshio Kurosawa
Yoshiko Mita
Miki Kikagawa
Gorô Matsunai

Running Time: 80 minutes
Released: December 6, 1969
Web English subtitles

When the Narcotics Squad raid the Tsukamoto Gang, Ibuki (Tatsuya Mihashi), one of the gang's leaders, takes full responsibility on condition he be permitted to break away from the underworld after serving a prison term.

After his release from prison, Ibuki establishes a legitimate firm in a port town, where he falls in love with Miki (Yoshiko Mita), the proprietress of a local bar.

One day when drinking in the bar with Sone (Gorô Matsunai) he met in prison, Ibuki gets a call from Tsukamoto, with whom he has severed relations, asking that he inform the gang if Ibuki's young brother Jiro (Toshio Kurosawa) happens to pass through the area.

When Ibuki returns home he finds Jiro and his pregnant girl friend Emi (Miki Kikagawa) staggering around under the influence of sleeping pills.

Jiro says he was ordered by Tsukamoto to kill a man who double-crossed the gang, but, tired of the underworld, he has run away. Ibuki offers to protect him and his sweetheart.

It is only a question of time before Tsukamoto man arrive to get Jiro and Ibuki leaves them with Sone and accompanies the gangsters to meet Tsukamoto, now president of Fer East Enterprises, to ask him to spare the couple. Tsukamoto agrees on condition Ibuki kills the man Jiro was sent to eliminate. Ibuki complies, completes the mission with ease, then returns to Tsukamoto only to learn his subordinates have gone to get Jiro anyway.

Ibuki's house becomes the scene of a gunfight. Jiro, Emi and Sone are killed and Ibuki returns to find their corpses and his house on fire.

In retaliation, Ibuki storms Fer East Enterprises, guns down all of Tsukamoto's henchmen and finally, with a single bullet, kills Tsukamoto.



Miki Kikagawa, Toshio Kurosawa & Tatsuya Mihashi



Haunted Castle

Kikaku Kikuyōden

1951 (1950)

Production Company:
Daiei Motion Picture
Co., Ltd.

Director:
Takao Tanabe
Screenplay:
Shōzaburō Aoki
Photography:
Haroshi Inoue
Art Director:
Seiichi Ōta
Music:
Chōmei Watanabe
With:
Kōjirō Hasegawa
Naomi Kobayashi
Mitsuhiko Tsuru
Kōichi Uenoyama
Akira Kikawada
Natsuko Ōno
Isako Min

Running Time: 83 minutes
Released December 20, 1950
With English subtitles

Fuji Color
Daiei Scope

In 1730, when Yoshimune Tokugawa, the 8th Shogun, ruled the country, the people were thrown into utter confusion and terror in Lord Nabeshima's Saga Castle in southern Kyūshū.

Something appeared by night and killed the ladies-in-waiting, ate the gold fish in the pond, and caused Lord Nabeshima (Kōichi Uenoyama) to suffer from an unknown disease.

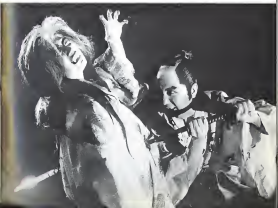
It all started after Lord Nabeshima killed Ryōzōji, formerly the lord of the Soga Clan whose House had been abolished by the Shogunate. Sayo (Mitsuyo Kamei), his beautiful sister, also committed suicide when she heard of her brother's unnatural death, cursing Lord Nabeshima and Gyōbu Yabuchi (Mitsuhiko Tsuru), the Chamberlain of the Clan.

Her soul was transferred into Tama, a black cat she loved above all things, and it gained supernatural power when it lapped up Sayo's blood before she died.

Gradually Hansayemon Komori (Kōjirō Hasegawa), a loyal samurai, tracked down the evil spirit, but it entered Lady Otao (Naomi Kobayashi). Lord Nabeshima's favorite mistress, and Komori found himself forsaken by everyone in the castle.



Naomi Kobayashi and Kōjirō Hasegawa



Mission Iron Castle

Sekisui no Shô

関白の南

Production Company
Daiei Motion Picture
Co., Ltd.

Director:
Izumi Morikawa
Original Story:
Ryôtarô Shiba
Scenario:
Takayuki Yano
Photography:
Fujio Maki
Art Director:
Shigeo Tanaka
Music:
Hajime Kato
Wife:
Hiroko Matsukata
Ryôtarô Shiba
Kôjiro Hongo
Michiko Yano
Yôko Nishikubo
Shirô Fujiwara
Takatoshi Nani
Matsuhiko Terao
Takeshi Ueda

Running Time: 78 minutes
Released February 1, 1970
With English subtitles

Black & White
Dolby Stereo

During an era of civil wars when powerful rival war lords competed to rule the land, magician-spies, who came and went swiftly and silently like dark shadows, were used by them to ferret out information about the enemy or to carry out difficult missions.

Yashirô (Hiroki Matsukata), whose father, mother, and sister had been brutally murdered by Oda, a harsh and merciless war lord, and Onikabu (Ryônosuke Minegishi), who would like to use his magic-powers to steal rather than carry out dangerous orders, are told to kidnap Lady Ochi (Shirô Fujiwara) from the Invincible Iron Castle.

They are joined by Sukedayu (Kôjiro Hongo) and Oni (Michio Yasuda), also magician-spies and consider it easy to kidnap Lady Ochi. But to take her to Lord Toyotomi is a different matter. But they put their heads together and come up with what they think is a sure way to succeed.

Yashirô and Onikabu are to steal into the castle and find Lady Ochi, while Oni is to tempt a general to advance at the head of his forces and leave the castle thinly guarded, so it will be easier for them to make a safe getaway with Lady Ochi.

But this is easier said than done, even for magician-spies. How they finally kidnap Lady Ochi, and to see who has the last laugh makes this a dynamic film filled with suspense until the very last frame.



Kôjiro Hongo and
Michiko Yano

Zatoichi Meets Yojimbo

Zatōichi to Yōjinbō

Relefil: 194-4

Production Company:
Katsu Production, Ltd.
Distribution Company:
Daiei Motion Picture
Co., Ltd.

Director:
Kishōri Okamoto
Original Story:
Ken Shimozawa
Screenplay:
Kishōri Okamoto
Tetsurō Yoshida
Photography:
Kazuo Miyajima
Art Director:
Yoshinobu Nishikubo
Music:
Akira Hasebe
With:
Shintarō Kato
Toshirō Mifune
Mor Kishida
Shigeru Kameyama
Tatsuyuki Hosokawa
Kenjurō Arashi
Osamu Takizawa
Ayako Wakao
Masakane Yonekura

Running Time: 135 minutes
Released: January 15, 1970
With English subtitles

Eastman Color
Daiei Scope

Ichi (Shintarō Kato) is blind. Outwardly, a masseur, he is called Zatoichi who, handicapped by lack of sight, has honed his remaining senses until they are as sharp as a razor's blade. His constant companion is his sword. This looks like an innocent blind man's cane, but it has left a trail of dead men. However, Ichi prides himself on the fact that he has never drawn his sword first against anyone.

Tired of violence, Ichi nostalgically remembers a peaceful village and returns only to find everything has changed.

For the village has been taken over by Boss Masagorō (Masakane Yonekura). Hyōroku (Kenjurō Arashi), the venerable former headman sits, day by day, making images of the god Jūdō. When Masagorō hears Ichi is in the village, he tells his bodyguard (Toshirō Mifune) to kill him. At first he refuses to kill a blind man, but changes his mind when offered an adequate reward.

As he challenges Ichi, the bodyguard feels the money is already his but, for the first time he meets his equal. In their first encounter, both feel a grudging respect for each other. Then they become enemies again when Ichi is taken in by Eboshiya (Osamu Takizawa), Masagorō's father who had disowned his son for his violent acts.

The bodyguard is really a spy sent by the Shogunate to find the gold bars Eboshiya is believed to have hidden away. Yet he does not seem in any hurry to carry out orders as long as he can drink at the sake shop run by Umeno (Ayako Wakao), the beautiful proprietress.

When Kamei, a spy known as Kuzuryū (Mor Kishida), is sent to watch the bodyguard, Eboshiya's younger son returns and demands the gold. When Eboshiya refuses, he kills his own father and brother.

Ironically, it is blind Ichi who finds, not gold bars but gold dust, hidden in the 130 Jūdō that old man Hyōroku had made on Eboshiya's orders as the best of hiding places. But before the gold-hungry people find it, the gold dust is blown away by a gust of wind.



Toshirō Mifune and Shintarō Kato



The Fort of Death

Gomen ne Shikō Kuregi
ごめんね 志科久礼

Production Company:
Toei Company, Ltd.

Director:
Eiji Kudo
Screenplay:
Kôji Takada
Photography:
Jôhji Suzuki
Art Director:
Yoshimizu Akemori
Music:
Toshiko Tsuchida
With:
Tomisaburô Wakayama
Minoru Ôki
Tomoko Mayama
Eizô Kitamura
Kenji Ushio
Ichirô Nakatani
Gorô Iwaki
Kenjurô Arashi
Asao Keike

Running Time: 87 minutes
Released December 12, 1966
With English or French subtitles

Eastman Color
ToeiScope

Ichibei Shikoro (Tomisaburô Wakayama) is a doctor for the poor in feudal Edo who manages the clinic by bounty hunting. Shimpachi, a young farmer of the Kurogane clan, one day begs him to rescue his villagers from their sad plight.

Lord Ôzeki (Asao Keike), head of the Kurogane clan, has imposed heavy taxes on the farmers to raise funds for repairing Edo Castle, and in so doing hopes for an important position in the Shogunate. Those unable to pay have been killed or have starved to death. Finally, the farmers band together in a fort and demand Ôzeki to relax the tax burden.

Ichibei supports the farmers, accepting a good round sum of money as reward, and sets out with Kunai Aoto (Kenji Ushio), his patient, female nurse Kagerô (Tomoko Mayama), an expert in cudgel fighting, knife thrower Hayato Onizuka (Eizô Kitamura), and skilled swordsman Yatarô Mochizuki (Minoru Ôki). After a violent fight, they meet the village headman Tazemon (Kenjurô Arashi) in the fort. Next-day Mondo Shibuke (Ichirô Nakatani), Lord Ôzeki's chief retainer, leads his troops against the fort but they are driven back by a machine gun which Ichibei has invented. A fierce fight takes place in the night to steal or to recover the gun, but Ichibei and Kagerô secure it.

The enemy brings up a large cannon that destroys the fortifications and troops led by Lord Ôzeki surge into the fort. A severe battle ensues during which Ichibei kills Ôzeki and Mondo.

The enemy retreats, leaving many dead, but all in the fort are also killed. Ichibei returns the money to the villagers, tells them to bury their dead, then turns towards home.



From right to left: Minoru Ôki, Tomoko Mayama, Tomisaburô Wakayama



The Priest Killer Comes Back

Gokuaku Bûaku, Nenbutsu Sandogiri

東宝 活劇時代

Eastman Color

TorisoScope

Production Company:
Toei Company, Ltd.

Director:
Takashi Harae
Scenarist:
Akira Muro
Kôji Takada
Photography:
Nagaki Yumagaki
Art Director:
Akira Yoshimizu
Music:
Toshiki Tsushima
With:
Tomisaburo Wakayama
Bunta Sugawara
Yuki Jôno
Yuriko Mishima
Ichirô Nakatani
Eiô Kikawa
Shinichirô Mikami
Shôzô Nakawa

Running Time: 94 minutes
Released February 27, 1970
With English subtitles

On the way home town to Naokata, a mining region in Kyûshû, priest Shinkai (Tomisaburo Wakayama), the hero, stops at the gambling house of the Kuroda gang in Wakamatsu. Here he saves his old friend, Takegorô Aizu (Ichirô Nakatani) who is about to be punished for cheating. But, he resents Shinkai's kindness.

Iinosuke (Shôzô Aikawa) and two other men from the Koinuma gang in the Shikoku district who have been shadowing Shinkai to revenge their boss' death, make friends with Takegorô and stay at the Gondawaras. That night, Shinkai seeks lodging at a nunnery, attracted by the sex appeal of Hakuyô (Yuriko Mishima), a nun. A man and a woman in a lonesome temple!

When Shinkai arrives in Naokata he is informed by Hideji (Shinichirô Mikami), that the Gondawaras and the Ryûô gangs are competing over the rights for loading coal and the coolies are suffering. Shinkai decides to help the coolies and aid Torisabô (Eizô Kitamura), boss of the Ryûô gang.

The Gondawaras and the Ryûô gangs promise unwillingly to raise the coolies' wages and to co-operate. In celebrating, there is a gambling game when Shinkai is a great success. The next morning, his money is stolen by Hakuyô, the nun.

Then Takegorô and the foreman, Hideji, are killed by the Gondawara gang. Shinkai becomes furious, and takes action with his flashing sword.



Tomisaburo
Wakayama



Wolves of the City, Check Mate

Furyô Banetô Ôtsubata

1981 LFR®

Production Company:
Toei Company, Ltd.

Director:
Makoto Nishô
Screenplay:
Izuo Matsumoto
Hideo Yamamoto
Photography:
Ichirô Hoshino
Art Director:
Shinichi Eno
Music:
Masao Yagi
Witch:
Tatsuo Umemiya
Hayato Tani
Fumio Watanabe
Rintô Sugawara
Tôru Abe
Noriko Sakakibara

Running Time: 87 minutes
Released January 5, 1981
With English subtitles

Eastmen Color
ToeiScope

The group of hoodlums led by Kôseke (Tatsuo Umemiya) are arrested for swindling and human traffic. After leaving prison they start work as efficiency experts in Tokyo. One day Kôseke meets Takigawa (Rintô Sugawara), his former partner who runs a construction company. Ôsaki (Tôru Abe), head of a big housing company, is to make a contract with Takigawa for a big apartment structure. When Kôseke helps Takigawa make the inhabitants on the site for the apartment move out, the playboy falls seriously in love with a strong-minded girl called Akiko (Noriko Sakakibara) who won't sell her print shop. He takes sides with her and Takigawa's efforts to make her move reach a deadlock. At the same time Damon (Fumio Watanabe), gambler's boss, threatens Ôsaki to make his embezzlement public and succeeds in making the contract for the apartment instead of Takigawa.

To make Akiko move, the Daimons put pressure on her customers. To help her, Kôseke and his gang print pornographic works to raise funds to rival the Daimons. Takigawa sells the apartment and tries to run away with the advance but the Daimons destroy his company building and take back the money. Then they throw grenades into the print shop and kill some of the workers.

Learning that the Daimons and Ôsaki are going to play golf at Gotenba, Kôseke and his gang head for the town with Takigawa and attack them at the foot of Mt. Fuji. During the fight all the Daimons, Ôsaki and some of the gang are killed. The only survivors are Kôseke and Tani (Hayato Tani) who make their way back to Tokyo.



Appointment with Danger

Gone no Kuzatsu, Kokusaisen Mochiwakitsu

原題: 国際線モウワキツ

Production Company:
Nikkatsu Corporation

Director:
Yûji Taniya
Original Story:
Toshiyuki Kanyama
Screenplay:
Ryûko Nishizaki
Wakio Sato
Photography:
Yoshihiro Yamazaki
Art Director:
Tomoo Kurehara
Music:
Tachio Kogai
With:
Akira Kobayashi
Masayo Nagao
Jûji Okazaki
Hisshi Kawaguchi
Mina Aoe
Yûko Tobe
Tokie Hideri

Running Time: 81 minutes
Released February 7, 1970
With English subtitles

Fuji Color
Nikkatsu Scope

Kagari (Akira Kobayashi), a scout and owner of Ginza bar hostesses, receives an urgent phone call from Sawako (Tokie Hideri), a hostess at the bar Rie, and rushes to Tokyo International Airport to meet her. When he arrives she is gone. At the bar he learns that Tabuchi (Kunio Kaga), a steady customer, had been quite friendly with Sawako and may know something.

Tabuchi claims he knows nothing and Kagari lets the matter drop. Shortly afterward he meets Yûko (Yûko Tobe), a clerk in a shoe store, who begs him to get her a job as a hostess. He finds her a job at the bar Mina run by his friend Mine (Mina Aoe) and in a short while Yûko is one of the most popular girls.

Then Kagari learns from Takijima (Hiroyuki Nagato), a businessman, that Sawako is in a hospital in Yokohama. Takijima explains that he found her in Singapore working as a street girl and brought her back to Japan. Sawako had lost her memory after being subjected to narcotics. Kagari swears to find the person responsible.

Yûko, who has fallen for Kagari, is jealous of Sawako. But he explains that it is only his feeling of outrage at selling human flesh and not his love for her.

Kagari gets a lucky break when Sawako's memory is restored and she tells him that Tabuchi injected her with narcotics and sold her into white slavery in Singapore. In the meantime Yûko has embarked on her own investigation and taken up with Tabuchi.

Just as Tabuchi is about to inject the deadly narcotic into Yûko, Kagari breaks in and subdues him. Tabuchi is fired from his post as managing director of a trading firm and arrested for trafficking in human flesh and Kagari returns to scouting beautiful women.



Akira Kobayashi (right)



The Cleanup

Arashi no Yûshôchûki
嵐の決闘

Production Company:
Nikkatsu Corporation

Director:
Toshio Matsu
Screenplay:
Shûichi Nagahara
Photography:
Yoshihiro Yamazaki
Art Director:
Takeshi Kimura
Music:
Hosami Ibe
With:
Yûjirô Ishihara
Tetsuya Watari
Mie Hama
Sayuri Yoshinaga
Hideo Kato
Yûko Yamamoto

Running Time: 105 minutes
Released December 21, 1960
With English subtitles

Full Color
Nikkatsu Scope

The scene is the Golden Room in one of the luxury hotels. It is a white tie party and all the beautiful women sparkle and shine in their best finery. To the casual eye, it seems like a gathering of jet set people, but there is more than meets the eye...

Smiling and suave, there is no inkling of Masamitsu Ikoma's ruthless side at this reception announcing his engagement to the lovely Akiko Shima (Mie Hama), a fashion designer and model, recently returned from France. From his appearance, no one would think he heads the most powerful syndicate in Japan.

Akiko herself seems to symbolize Ikoma's wealth and power in the dazzling creation she is wearing, studded with diamonds worth 100 million yen. She is the center of attention and the envy of all the women present. Some young men, too, find her irresistible but in a different way.

They are uninvited guests with a very dim view of syndicates and have come with a definite purpose in mind. They are just waiting for the right time and their chance to carry out their plan.

Suddenly, the lights go out. When they go on again, to everyone's consternation, Akiko is gone. Ikoma is livid with anger. Added to his worry about Akiko's safety is the blow to his pride that someone should have the audacity to kidnap her from under his very eyes—as if thumbing his nose at him.

Karasawa (Tetsuya Watari) and his men kidnaped Akiko, but they are dumbfounded to discover that someone had beat them at getting her diamond-studded gown. They do not know that Shima (Yûjirô Ishihara) and his group had been after Akiko, too, and had succeeded in their daring plan.

The two groups of young men may have had the same intention—to get a crack at the syndicate they despise, but they work at cross purposes and with Ikoma and his men hot on their heels, the number of people involved becomes greater and greater, and assumes an untoward aspect...



Yûjirô Ishihara and Mie Hama

Tetsuya Watari, Yûjirô Ishihara and Sayuri Yoshinaga



Profile of A Boss' Son

Yakaze no Yokozuna
やくざの横綱

Production Company:
Nikkatsu Corporation

Director:
Kazichi Ozawa
Original Story:
Yasunori Kawasuchi
Scenario:
Ryūzo Nakanishi
Photography:
Shōtarō Takemura
Art Director:
Takeo Kimura
Music:
Rōmei Morise
With:
Tetsuya Watanabe
Jo Shishido
Takaya Nakamura
Ryōhei Uchida
Yoshiko Kayama
Ritsuko Oka
Reiko Aoi

Running Time: 95 minutes
Released January 26, 1970
With English subtitles

Fuji Color
Nikkatsu Scope

Japan seems good to Teppi Hondo (Tetsuya Watanabe) after a year on a cargo ship. He had killed two Shinwa Group men four years ago for killing his brother. After serving a 3-year prison term, he had thought of going home but his father, the Boss of the Hondo Group, had told him to stay away another year, so he had gone to sea.

Learning from Boss Hayasaki that his father and the Shinwa Group are still at odds, Teppi decides to stay with Hayasaki. However, he is uneasy because he feels that Boss Hayasaki is not really as friendly as he appears to be on the surface, so he moves in with Captain Kuroki (Jo Shishido) at the Seamen's Hotel.

Even here, Teppi feels that he is being shadowed by someone. His fears prove true. Hayasaki, a friend of the Shinwa Group, sends men to kill him. Teppi is saved by a man named Ginzo Yamada (Ryōhei Uchida) but, somehow, is unable to trust him.

Teppi is right again in his hunch, for Ginzo has been hired by Hayasaki to kill him. Teppi also discovers that Ritsuko (Yoshiko Kayama), whom he had met a few days before, is Ginzo's woman. Ginzo challenges Teppi to fight and chooses death to leave Ritsuko to the better man.

Then things begin to happen thick and fast. Failing to rub out Teppi, the Shinwa men attack and kill his father. They also kill Hotta who is hurrying to Yokohama to tell Teppi. When Teppi hears of this, single-handed, he avenges their deaths and Captain Kuroki finds him standing over the bodies of his enemies.

Teppi is uncertain what to do but Kuroki and Segawa, the owner of the Seamen's Hotel, dissuade him from giving himself up and urge him to board ship again. The day Teppi leaves Yokohama, Ritsuko watches the cargo boat as it sinks below the horizon, her eyes brimming with tears.



Jo Shishido and
Tetsuya Watanabe

The Performers

How to Succeed in Japan
北と南と東

Production Company:
Shochiku Co., Ltd.

Director:
Uchida Inoue
Scenarist:
Umezaki Isamu
Photography:
Kaji Maruyama
Art Director:
Gabel Morin
Music:
Satoru Otsu
With:
Hibari Misato
Shinichi Mori
Shôgo Shimada
Yoshi Hayashi
Yatarô Kitagawa
Nana Ozeki

Running Time: 94 minutes
Released January 15, 1970
With English subtitles

Bestman Color
Shochiku GrandScope

Seijûrô Fujihana (Shôgo Shimada), head master of the Fujihana dance school, is a proud and lonely artist. And because of his character, his group lacks the prosperity of others. He wishes his daughter Kasumi (Hibari Misato), aged like himself, to take over and develop the Fujihana, but she wishes to marry Hiroshi (Yoshi Hayashi), head of a jazz band which her father opposes.

Kasuburô (Yatarô Kitagawa), Seijûrô's No.1 disciple, wants to marry Kasumi and take over the Fujihana with the backing of the chairman of the supporters' association.

Kasumi is shocked when Hiroshi proposes to end their affair. She drowns her sorrow in drink and asks a strolling singer Ryûsuke (Shinichi Mori) to sing for her when gangsters arrive and beat him up, claiming it is their territory. But Ryûsuke is happy as long as he can sing and Kasumi takes him to her music teacher for lessons.

Kasumi now performs in a night club against her father's wish and Ryûsuke sings in the show, which is highly successful.

As Ryûsuke becomes popular, magazines write gossip about him and Kasumi. Seijûrô orders her not to see him.

Kasuburô who learns that he cannot marry Kasumi makes a new group of the Fujihana. Shocked by his action, Seijûrô falls ill. Seijûrô now apologizes to Kasumi that he asked Hiroshi to break with her.

Realizing that Ryûsuke should be independent, she decides to stop her support.

She stakes everything on her forthcoming recital, but money bothers Kasumi as she can find only half of that required.

Hiroshi proposes again but she is still determined to live for the Fujihana. Hiroshi offers 5 million yen for her recital. He explains that Ryûsuke sold himself to an agent and got the contract money for her sake.

On her recital day, Ryûsuke watches TV as she performs a splendid dance on the theme of a crane.



Shinichi Mori and Nana Ozeki



Hibari Misato and Shinichi Mori

The Romance Express

Furusaki Miyoko
MITSUBISHI

Production Company:
Shochiku Co., Ltd.

Director:
Shuji Segawa
Scenario:
Kazuo Furukichi
Photography:
Koji Masuyama
Art Director:
Isao Kunitada
Music:
Satoru Omori
With:
Furukichi Sakai
Kazuko Kari
Hitomi Nazoo
Chusko Bancho
Junzaburo Ban
Chichiro Miyako
Isamu Nagato
Ken Omura
Chiko Yoku

Running Time: 80 minutes
Released January 21, 1932
With English subtitles

Eastman Color
Shochiku GrandScope

Genta Akagaki (Furukichi Sakai) works as agent at the Akô City railway station, cared for by Tamako (Chiko Yoku), his younger sister, and Keizô (Ken Omura), her husband. But they can't openly enjoy their married life in front of Genta and want him to marry as soon as possible.

Kaoru (Hitomi Nazoo), daughter of a noodle shop, is in love with Genta. But he neglects her, because he is secretly in love with Michiyo (Kazuko Kari), stationmaster Inoue's daughter, an employee of a post office operated by Kazuo Furue (Chichiro Miyako), an old spinster.

Genta establishes the Akô Travel Club and Yasukichi Horibe (fish dealer), Dr. Kayano (obstetrician), Oishi (hotel employee), Takebayashi (owner of a public bath house), etc., join.

Genta secretly hands his love poem to Michiyo, but one day he drops a piece of paper with a love poem in the noodle shop and Kaoru picks it and thinks it is for her.

Genta takes Michiyo on a trip to Kurashiki through the Inland Sea, confesses his love and proposes to her.

Keizô and Tamako visit the stationmaster and ask him to arrange the marriage of Genta and Kaoru, showing Genta's love poem.

The next day Genta is coldly treated by Michiyo, becomes desperate and gets drunk with Kiri (Junzaburo Ban), a middle-aged uxor.

On the last day of the year, the Travel Club starts on a trip to Izumo Shrine. While Genta is dreaming of Michiyo in his hotel room, Kaoru in negligé enters and asks to sleep with him. Genta, thinking she is a figure in his dream, lets her stay overnight.

Next morning, Genta and Kaoru are found asleep in the same bed.

They are married in the Shrine hall with the stationmaster and postmistress as the go-betweens. Genta feels sad, but the bride appears very happy.



Furukichi Sakai and
Hitomi Nazoo

Tora-san's Grand Scheme

Shin Otsko wa Tsureyo

☆ 恋のついで

Production Company:
Shochiku Co., Ltd.

Director:
Shunichi Kobayashi

Original Story:

Yûji Yamada

Scenario:

Yûji Yamada

Azusa Maekawa

Photography:

Tatsuo Takahashi

Art Director:

Kôji Uno

Music:

Nasumi Yamamoto

With:

Kiyoshi Atsumi

Chieko Baishô

Shin Monikawa

Chieko Maki

Komaki Kurihara

Running Time: 90 minutes
Released February 23, 1972
With English subtitles

Eastman Color
Shochiku GrandScope

Torajirô (Kiyoshi Atsumi), born and raised in a poor family, is racketeer with a wild and untamed nature.

After long absence, he returns to his hometown with a lot of money which he has won on the turf. With this money, he wishes to repay his uncle (Shin Monikawa) and aunt (Chieko Maki) who took care of him in boyhood after his father's death. He offers them a trip to Hawaii, a venturable dream to the people in this town.

They leave joyfully for the airport, seen off by many neighbors.

But, alas! At the airport they find the agent who was supposed to arrange their trip has run away with Torajirô's money which he had deposited and was at a loss what to do.

Finally Torajirô decides to deceive their neighbors by pretending that they are in Hawaii. After dark, they creep back home. While hiding away from neighbors, a sneak thief trespasses into their house. And though they catch the thief, everything comes to light. Deeply ashamed, Torajirô leaves town.

One month later, Torajirô returns to his uncle's house where he finds Haruko (Komaki Kurihara), a beautiful girl working for a kindergarten occupying his room.

He tries to make up to her, but a shock betrays him when Haruko's sweetheart visits her. Torajirô now realizes his love toward her is only a one-sided affair, and he leaves his home town once more.



Kiyoshi Atsumi
and Chieko Maki

Komaki Kurihara
and Kiyoshi Atsumi



Films in the Making



The Creature Called Men
(*Jupi wa Hushite*)

Teike Co., Ltd.

An action drama about a killer and a police inspector, starring Yûzô Kayama as the police inspector and Jûzô Teruya as the killer. Directed by Kiyoshi Nishimura.



The Scandalous Adventures of Bunrôken
(*Bunrôken*)

Teike Co., Ltd.

A period drama based on a Kiseki story with the same set in the difficult times under the Shogun's Reformation of 1642. Directed by Masahiro Shimada and starring Tatsuya Nakadai, Shima Junsaku, Tetsurô Tanba and Shôichi Gômei.



Play It Cool
(*Doko Kurego*)

Deini Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

Directed by Yasuzô Masumura, this film is about a glamorous girl (Mori Asagiri) who believes only in money and decides to live with her mother (Asami Nagata). She starts her career as a barmaid, finds a man (Kô Nishimura), who keeps her as his mistress and on his death inherits his immense fortune. But she loses her real lover (Yûsaku Kaseki). Yet she believes, or makes herself believe she is happy.



Why out—Why in
(*Kôdoku Banashi*)

Deini Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

Deals with problems of today's high school students, anxiously full-grown, but under taboo only because they are not adults. For this reason they can not control their youthfulness and sometimes indulge in innocent yet useless violence. Starring Yûko Nanakawa, Eiko Yanase and Akiko Nanase and directed by Michiaki Ôbimori.



The Hoodlum Cop
(*Yakuza Oshi*)

Toei Company, Ltd.

In this film popular TV action star, Shinichi Chiba, is cast as a secret police detective on special mission. Directed by Yukio Kido, the picture deals with a furious battle between police and a narcotics syndicate.



Pretty Devils
(*Bôshi no Meshachô*)

Toei Company, Ltd.

About three pretty jades in Osaka who tifle with young men, directed by Motohiko Tani. Toei's most promising young actors, Reiko Ôhara, is cast as the chief of the three jades.



For the Rising Sun
(*Hare no Takkôshi—An Shinyôshi*)

Nikkatsu Corporation

Love of one's country inherent in human beings sometimes surpasses love of family and sweetheart. These things fit through Shôichi Hamamura's mind as he works for the payoff of no return. He had volunteered and endured the grueling training that would lead to death. Directed by Kenjiô Maruyama and starring Tatsuya Watarai and Masako Izumi.

©Hirofumi Takano, *Isuzu Asa Bunko*
 Boko (The First Gentle)
 ©Shunzo Taniyama
 Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw)
 Shunzo Taniyama, Kurosawa In Da
 Shunzo Taniyama, Kurosawa In Da
 Shunzo Taniyama, Kurosawa In Da
 ©Gakuji Iida, *Hokuriku Bunko*
 Hoku (The First Gentle)

Nikkatsu Corporation

| This | Description | Director | Date of Release | Running Time |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | Seven killers etc. take on a crime syndicate single headhunting. | Shunzo Taniyama | Dec. 6, 1958 | 87 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A young man entangled in a child molester's tale of terror with his father in his heart. | Shunzo Taniyama | Dec. 17, 1958 | 89 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A story of a woman gladiator with a fantastic cherry blossom tattoo. | Shunzo Taniyama | Dec. 17, 1958 | 84 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | Ten groups of jewel thieves attempt to steal the precious gems of a boss's mansion. | Shunzo Taniyama | Dec. 31, 1958 | 100 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A girl and a man hunt an evading a new criminal mastermind of the daughter of a criminal mastermind. | Shunzo Taniyama | Dec. 31, 1958 | 85 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A female gladiator takes over a new lead but is forced to fight with unorthodox men against those gladiators previously being unorthodox in justice. | Shunzo Taniyama | Jan. 15, 1959 | 84 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A former gladiator returns seeking a crime syndicate who killed his brother. | Shunzo Taniyama | Jan. 24, 1959 | 86 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | In the early 1950s, a young man seeks to take up a fight with the help of a woman gladiator. | Shunzo Taniyama | Jan. 25, 1959 | 86 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A search for Queen for a fantastic crime on a wild west trip. | Shunzo Taniyama | Feb. 7, 1959 | 84 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | A young man who is the son of a man who is a criminal mastermind of the daughter of a criminal mastermind. | Shunzo Taniyama | Feb. 7, 1959 | 85 min. |
| ©Shunzo Taniyama Shunzo Taniyama (The Outlaw) | In the early 1950s, a man, the daughter of a criminal mastermind, is becoming young man. | Shunzo Taniyama | Feb. 21, 1959 | 90 min. |

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